



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE N ON THE PREPARATION OF A HANDBOOK OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

The statement concerning the scope of the work of the committee prepared by the President of the Association is as follows:

This country greatly needs such a handbook. A small part of the data can be found in the annual report of the U. S. Commissioner of Education, in the American Year-Book, and elsewhere. But what is needed is a special publication, annually revised, on the general plan of the German "Minerva."

The reasons why the "Minerva" does not suffice are: (1) It is in German, and as a matter of self-respect, we ought to have one of our own in English, for the United States alone. (2) The present convulsion in Europe will result in numerous gaps in "Minerva," if, indeed, it is not abandoned; for five or ten years to come, it can hardly be complete and will decline in vogue; and it has never been up to date for the United States. (3) More important, "Minerva's" general plan does not admit several classes of data which we ourselves constantly need to know for American institutions; *e. g.*, the courses given and not merely the names of the professors. (4) Most important, the large and increasing number of foreign students, from Japan, China, South America, and elsewhere, find us without any reference book containing the information and the general survey which they need.

The handbook should presumably be, like "Minerva," a mere rehearsal of the principal classes of facts, obtainable of record; and would become a reference volume in every library, high school and editorial office in the country.

In view of the wide dispersal of the members of the committee it has not held a meeting and the proceedings have been conducted by correspondence. The committee was at first evenly divided on the desirability of taking up the preparation of the proposed handbook, but after discussion with the chairman one of the members agreed to reconsider his letter, and the vote was six to four in favor of proceeding

with the handbook in case suitable arrangements could be made.

Among the arguments against publication were:

(1) Such an annual reference book is not needed, "Minerva" and other books and the catalogues of universities supplying the information in a satisfactory way.

(2) If such a handbook were published it should be prepared by a committee of college registrars or some similar body. Professors should have their time conserved for teaching and research, not diverted to clerical and executive work. It is particularly wasteful of valuable time for such work to be undertaken by a widely separated committee having diverse views. It would be difficult to select the institutions to be included and the information to be given. There would be misunderstandings and jealousies that might injure the Association.

(3) The publication is not feasible on a commercial basis.

Among arguments in favor of publication were:

(1) The publication of "Minerva" may be suspended and it does not in any case give the information needed concerning American Institutions. It would be a saving of time and money to collate in one volume the information from many catalogues. The work would be a valuable address book of university and college officers.

(2) The publication under the auspices of the Association would add to the prestige of the book and of the Association. Information might be given in an objective way which would tend to improve the institutions and the status of the professor, such as emphasis on advanced work, opportunities for research, library facilities, salaries, tenure of office, participation of the faculty in university control and the like.

(3) The book might ultimately become self-supporting and even profitable, or it might be published through the Bureau of Education or some other agency.

Letters were addressed to five of the leading publishers of educational books, explaining the plan of the handbook and asking whether they cared to consider its publication. Messrs. Ginn and Company, Henry Holt and Company and Charles Scribner's Sons replied that they did not wish to consider it.

The Macmillan Company replied that they were interested, but they are not prepared to take the financial risk. Messrs. D. Appleton and Company wrote that they would like to consider the publication and there have been two interviews with the president of the company. They were willing to pay the cost of printing and to allow one-half the profits (if any) up to \$1500 towards the cost of compilation.

Correspondence was also conducted with A. N. Marquis and Co. (publishers of "Who's Who") and with Porter E. Sargent (publisher of a Handbook of Private Schools) but without promising results.

Correspondence was further conducted with Dr. P. P. Claxton, U. S. Commissioner of Education, and Dr. S. P. Capen, specialist in higher education in the Bureau of Education, and interviews were held with them. Dr. Claxton finally wrote:

After some days' consideration, I have reluctantly come to the conclusion that the compilation of such a volume even at three year intervals, with the present available force of the Bureau of Education, would be impossible. It may be that the Bureau will receive from the next Congress additional appropriations which could be used for work in higher education. Indeed, I am not without hope that this will come to pass. Nevertheless, it can not be counted upon.

I think the plan of the handbook as you outlined it to me in our recent conference and as it has been further commented upon by Dr. Capen, is admirable. I hope that the Association's committee will proceed to put it into execution, and I shall be glad to assist the committee in any way possible. I believe that the Bureau will be able to publish the document as a report of your committee, of course with the usual proviso, that the document meets our approval when it is submitted.

It thus appears that Messrs. D. Appleton and Co. or the Bureau of Education would publish the work if the manuscript is prepared by the Association. It would, however, be necessary for the editors to serve without compensation and for the Association to pay the cost of compilation, with

a possible partial return in the case of Messrs. D. Appleton and Co.

In view of all the circumstances of the case the committee unanimously makes the following recommendations:

(1) While from many points of view the publication of a Year-Book of American Universities would be desirable, we regard it as not feasible at the present time for the American Association of University Professors to undertake the editorial and financial responsibility.

(2) We recommend that in compiling the membership list of the Association there be inserted after each institution in which there are members, a statement concerning the institution, containing information of special interest to members. Such a publication might ultimately develop into a Year-Book of American Universities and Colleges.

Signed: J. McKEEN CATTELL, *Chairman*

THOMAS M. BALLIET

CHARLES BASKERVILLE

CARROLL W. DOTEN

THOMAS S. FISKE

JAMES W. GARNER

ARTHUR L. KIMBALL*

ALFRED C. LANE

WM. T. MAGRUDER

EDWIN BIDWELL WILSON

*I approve of the whole report with exception of the final recommendation. I do not see how a statement as brief as the circumstances would require could be made of enough value to pay for the editorial time and attention required, not to mention the increase that it would involve in the cost of the membership list. But I am ready to be converted if it can be shown that really useful data could in that way, in a few lines, be given to the members.—ARTHUR L. KIMBALL.